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Tells of His Experience With U.S. Destroyer Fleet in Turkish Waters.

Roy C. Bishop, oldest son of the editor of the Chronicle, is with the U. S. destroyer fleet that has been in Turkish waters for the past several weeks. It takes a letter about 17 to 20 days to reach Crossville from Constantinople, hence any letter is some weeks old by the time it reaches here. The last letter received by the Chronicle editor Friday contains so much that we feel will be of interest to Chronicle readers generally that we are giving it in detail. The letter follows:

"As I did not go into details in my last letter, I will try and write the most important happenings of the trip from the time we left Norfolk.

"We left Hampton Roads, Va., October 2, making a speed of 13 knots. The first ten days of the trip was made in splendid weather. The last ten days were quite rough as we struck a storm with an eighty-mile gale. It got so rough on the second day it was impossible to use the galley ranges. The ship rolled so much that even though the vessels were made secure on the top of the rang very little or nothing could be cooked in them due to the fact that it would slop over the edges of the containers. So we were fed on sardines and hard tack. A great part of the dishes on the mess were broken. One would be sitting eating when the ship would suddenly take a big sea and while you were grabbing something to keep your self from being thrown about, your dishes would be hurled from the table out into the middle of the deck. Most times only the pieces were to be picked up.

"We arrived in Gibraltar about four o'clock the afternoon of the 15th. Before sundown were were tied along side of an English oil tanker and oiled

ship that night. October 16, liberty parties were sent ashore. Only one-third of the crew being allowed to go at a time for a period of four hours. Monday afternoon, October 17, we left Gibraltar for Constantinople at a speed of 16 knots.

"For six days we sailed the Mediterranean, etc., occasionally sighting northern Africa, Sardinia, southern Italy and islands of the Grecian Archipelago, into the Dardanelles. As we approached the Dardanelles it was easy to see why the British and the French made a failure in their attempt to drive the Turks from the peninsula of Gallipoli in 1914 and 1915. At the very entrance, which I should judge to be not more than six or seven miles in width, is a fort that told very plainly by its walls a story of some of the fighting, which had taken place there. While within a mile or so of the beach could be seen the masts and shot torn hulls of half-sunken British and French ships that had been the victims of well-aimed shots from the fort. High mountains extend the whole length of the Dardanelles being farther from the beach on the Asiatic side than on the side of Gallipoli. Practically the whole length of the Dardanelles is fortified. From the crest of the mountains which in some places come to the very water's edge and from other places of advantage along the shore can be seen the protruding muzzles of canon or where canon have recently been. Most of this, if not all, is now in the hands of the French and British. Many refugees were seen in sail boats and other boats being rowed, by both men and women, with long, odd-shaped oars. All seemed to be headed for the Mediterranean entrance.

"When we got into the Sea of Marmara we had to slow down to six knots because of an order by the British in regard to vessels in these waters after sunset, for it was nearly eight

o'clock in the evening when we arrived through the Dardanelles. We reached Constantinople early Sunday morning, the 24th day of October. We anchored at what is known as Dalma Bagtche, which lies directly in front of the Sultan's summer palace. There are four buoys here which belong to the United States, where our ships are moored. The English, French, Italians etc., also have buoys here to which their ships are moored.

"Constantinople is a very old city with a few modern improvements such as electric lights and small, dinky street cars on the main streets. The Grand Rue De Para is the main street. It extends practically the whole length of Constantinople proper to the Stamboul bridge across the Golden Horn. Constantinople proper is inhabited by Russians, Greeks, Armenians, Turks and peoples of all nationalities of Europe. While Stamboul is Turkish almost entirely. One is not allowed in Stamboul after sunset. A person would be killed for a few piasters there almost any time.

"The lire, or Turkish pound, is the money used over here. There are one hundred piasters to a lire. Last week one could get over two liras for an American dollar, while today it is again about normal—170 piasters to the dollar. Things are very cheap here when one considers American prices. A glass of beer for 10 piasters; the best of German razors for from 50 to 75 piasters; a good meal for 75 piasters; stamps 7½ piasters for foreign postage; good kid gloves from 2 to 3 liras; other things such as silk clothing etc depends upon what one will pay. Over here they have no set price for anything, when asking the price of anything one is usually told two or three times the price, so it is always best to cut their prices in thirds and try to strike a bargain.

"October 30—We left Constantinople for Smyrna arriving there the next morning. We only stopped here two hours, long enough to give mail to the U. S. S. Gilmer No. 233. Smyrna at one time was quite a large city and far better and more prosperous looking than many of the so-called cities in this part of the world. It has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. Along the waterfront runs one of the main streets of the city and along this still can be seen what were large store buildings now windowless and smokestained with parts of the walls fallen in. Squads of Greek prisoners under Turkish guards can be seen tearing down the standing walls and clearing up the debris. The U. S. S. Laurence No. 250 was in Smyrna at the time of the burning by the Turks, and upon her return from there tied up to the same buoy as we were. If there is any truth in the stories told by them of the atrocities committed by the Turks what the Germans did in Belgium couldn't hold a candle for them. A landing party was sent ashore from our boats with orders not to fire unless fired upon. They did what they could to protect as many of the helpless as possible. It is said that evidently the Turks had strict orders in regard to the American forces because in a case or two of which I heard, a couple of American sailors defied a whole squad of Turkish soldiers and not so much as a growl from them. The French and British also send landing parties ashore, but from all rumor it seems the Turks resent this more than our having men there. It is said that the women and children were treated awful. That after the women had been mistreated in everyway possible their breasts were cut off and their bodies mutilated and then instead of being killed outright they were left to suffer and die. The younger and best looking girls were taken as captives and placed in harems of the Turks farther inland and there has been quite a fuss made about this over here. Our ships, and I am not positive but I think our's alone, were the only warships of any nation to take refugees from Smyrna. The refugees were taken to islands in the Grecian Archipelago.

"We left Smyrna enroute for Jaffa the seaport of Jerusalem November 1. The chief pharmacist mate was found unconscious in his bunk about eight o'clock in the morning and died shortly afterward.

"November 2—Put into Berint. Syria Doctor came aboard and body of the C. P. M. was taken ashore and an autopsy performed. It was stated he died from Chronic Meningitis. His body was embalmed and prepared for shipment to the U. S. Liberty was granted here. Berint is a very dirty smelly place and not half as large as Smyrna was and everything is much more expensive than in Constantinople or any port we touched along the coast of Asia Minor. We had to change our money into Syrian piasters, which are worth more than twice what a Turkish piaster is. We got 30 Syrian piasters for a Turkish lire or 100 Turkish piasters and later it dropped to 36. We got 72 Syrian piasters for an American dollar.

"We left Berint, or Beyrouth as the French called it, the 3rd, enroute for Jaffa, arriving there in the morning. Jaffa was under quarantine for the plague so we were not allowed liberty in the city. Arrangements were made to send sight-seeing parties to Jerusalem, which is some what over 40 miles inland. All the ship's company who could produce the price were allowed to go. There being two different parties sent, one the 4th and another the 5th. I went in the second party.

"We left the ship early in the morning, landed on the docks in Jaffa and were escorted through the city by a guard of soldiers to see that the quarantine was not violated. At the gates of the city we were loaded into automobiles, five men to the car, and were soon on our way. It was a very dusty trip but every inch of it was interesting. I could not begin to tell you of it in this letter. The many camel trains we saw and the droves of sheep and shepherds and the many things that look as though they have not changed since the time of Christ.

"We arrived in Jerusalem about 10:30. Here upon leaving the car a guide took us first to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. In this Church is the place where Christ was tried before Pilate, where the crown of thorns was placed upon his head where he was denied by Peter. The cell where he was confined before his trial when he was brought as a prisoner from the Garden of Gethsemane. Each spot where he is supposed to have stood is pointed out to you and all of these places are known as the fourteen points of the Cross. There is also His tomb which was the tomb of Joseph of Aramethea, and several other things that were connected with the crucifixion and resurrection. From here we went to the Mosque of Omar which is supposed to stand on the spot where Solomon's temple stood. We also visited the Mosque of El-Askir, St. Stephen's gate, where the stoning of Stephen took place, and the Damascus Gate. From the Damascus Gate we took the car and went to the Mt. of Olives. On the road to the Mount of Olives we saw the British grave yard, graves of the soldiers killed in Palestine during the last war. On the Mount of Olives we saw the place of the Ascension and from the tower of the Russian church there we saw the Dead Sea which appeared to be some 20 miles distant. From here we drove again into the city where we had lunch and roamed around through the shops and bought a few souvenirs. About 2:30 we left Jerusalem for Bethlehem. Here we visited the Church of the Nativity, which is supposed to contain the places where Christ was born, cradled and where he was visited by the Wise Men. From here we went to the Roman Catholic church of Bethlehem which is built on the spot where Mary, the mother of Jesus hid with the infant Jesus from the Roman soldiers and where she is supposed to have stayed until the flight of Mary and Joseph into Egypt. We left Bethlehem about four o'clock and returned to Jerusalem where we bought some refreshments and started on the return trip to Jaffa. We got back to the ship about 7:30 and immediately got underway for Berint, Syria.

"November 6—We arrived in Berint. While here we did a lot of repair work and painted ship.

"November 11—Armistice Day, at 1 p. m. we got underway for Smyrna. This was the first time I ever saw a water spout. Along in the mid afternoon there was as many as three at a time some two or three miles off our port beam.

"November 12—Quite a big storm today.

"November 13—Arrived in Smyrna this morning. Mail came aboard from No. 246 Bambridge, which had just come down from Constantinople. Saw the General of Kemal Pasha in charge at Smyrna. He passed the ship today in his launch to visit the Dutch Man-O-War, Trompe.

November 17—Big fire in Smyrna down near the part of the city where the foreign legations are located. It was soon under control and did not destroy much property.

November 20—Monday, dressed ship today in honor of Italian Queen's birthday.

"November 21—Crew got payed today. Exchange 202 piasters per American dollar.

November 22—Arrived in Constantinople. It snowed all day and has been very cold since.

"This finishes about everything of interest, except we are still in Constantinople and will probably be for a few days. Then from reports we go to Odessa and Batum, Russia."

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